

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 HA-05 /067 W

-----021299 190248Z /61

R 180710Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 918

INFO AMCONSUL MEDAN

AMCONSUL SURABAYA

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 11249

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, SHUM, ID

SUBJECT: RELEASE OF TEN JANUARY DETAINEES

REF: JAKARTA 4313

1. IN CONJUNCTION WITH INDONESIA'S INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS NINE STUDENTS AND ONE TEACHER WHO HAD BEEN ARRESTED ON JANUARY 20 FOR DISSIDENT ACTIVITIES WERE RELEASED AUGUST 16. THE TEACHER IS ARIEF RACHMAN, A WELL KNOWN VICE RECTOR AND LECTURER IN ENGLISH AT THE JAKARTA TEACHERS TRAINING INSTITUTE (IKIP). AMONG THE STUDENTS RELEASED IS FORMER UNIVERSITY OF INDONESIA STUDENT COUNCIL SECRETARY GENERAL JO RUMESER.

2. ACCORDING TO THE REPECTED INDEPENDENT JAKARTA DAILY KOMPAS, WHICH REPORTED THE RELEASE, FIVE STUDENTS ARE STILL BEING DETAINED BY THE JAKARTA SPECIAL COMMAND (LAKSUSDA) ALONG WITH FIVE OTHER NON-STUDENTS WHO WERE INVOLVED IN PROTEST ACTIVITIES PRECEDING THE MPR SESSIONS IN MARCH. ONE OF THE NON-STUDENTS STILL BEING DETAINED IS HAJI AM FATWA, SECOND SECRETARY OF THE JAKARTA BRANCH OF THE INDONESIAN COUNCIL OF ULAMAS.

3. ARIEF RACHMAN TOLD KOMPAS THAT HE WAS HAPPY TO BE
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ABLE TO REJOIN HIS FAMILY AND THREE CHILDREN BUT CONCERNED THAT SOME OF HIS FELLOW DETAINEES HAD NOT BEEN RELEASED. HE SAID THAT DURING SIX MONTHS OF DETENTION HIS DESIRE TO SERVE HIS COUNTRY HAD BEEN STRENGTHENED AND THAT HE WAS SURE THOSE STILL IN DETENTION FELT THE SAME WAY.

4. COMMENT: THE RELEASE WITHOUT TRIAL OF THE POPULAR

RACHMAN, WHO BEFORE HIS ARREST HAD ALSO BEEN WIDELY KNOWN
THROUGH HIS ENGLISH TEACHING PROGRAM ON INDONESIAN TELE-
VISION, IS OF SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE. PRIOR TO THIS IT HAD
BEEN GENERALLY ASSUMED THAT ALL OF THE REMAINING JANUARY
DETAINEES WOULD BE PROSECUTED.
GARDNER

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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